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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Martin DALGAARD

Confirmation No.: 8470

Patent No.: 6,938,904 B2

Application No.: 10/754,168

Patent Date: September 6, 2005

Filing Date: January 9, 2004

For: ADJUSTABLE STRAP FOR A BINDING

Attorney Docket No.: 87728-3800

REQUEST FOR CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.323

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Patentees hereby respectfully request the issuance of a Certificate of Correction in connection with the above-identified patent. The corrections are listed on the attached Form PTO-1050. The corrections requested are as follows:

Column 6:

Line 29 (claim 7, line 22), after "for mating with the teeth of the" delete "of the".

Line 42 (claim 10, line 1), after "The apparatus of claim **9** wherein the first" delete "the first".

The requested changes are merely to correct errors of a clerical nature and do not involve changes which would constitute new matter or require reexamination.

A fee of $100 is believed to be due for this request. Please charge the required fees to Winston & Strawn LLP Deposit Account No. 50-1814. Please issue a Certificate of Correction in due course.

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Respectfully submitted,

9-20-05
Date

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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

CERTIFICATE OF CORRECTION

PATENT NO.: 6,938,904 B2
DATED: September 6, 2005
INVENTORS: Dalgaard

It is certified that error appears in the above-identified patent and that said Letters Patent is hereby corrected as shown below:

Column 6:
Line 29, after "for mating with the teeth of the" delete "of the"; and
Line 42, after "The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first" delete "the first".

how to accomplish such mechanical loosely coupled connections, for example, by incorporating flanges and grooves or shelves within the straps, to retain the various components in either the medial strap or in the instep pad even when they are loosened, such as when a wearer either is putting on, taking off or adjusting the fit of the binding.

The present design beneficially utilizes an adjustment feature located on the raised ramp area of the instep pad **28**. Such a design advantageously allows for micro-adjustment and fine positioning of the instep pad by providing the use of a plurality of adjustment teeth. This is achieved by using a medial strap, which contains a single lengthwise slot **40** that may be positioned through the middle portion of the strap. In an implementation, the medial strap incorporates a multitude of horizontally positioned teeth **42** running vertically for the length of the strap including surrounding the slot **42**. The teeth **42** are capable of interlocking with the teeth **43** of the retention device **45** which is located on the ramped area of the instep pad **28**. The medial strap **22** may be adjusted to the desired location over the raised area on the instep pad, and covered by a strap retaining cover **52**, or a washer, or other capping mechanism and then sandwiched together by a screw **51** and T-nut **53**. By utilizing a configuration that uses a teeth design, the pressure required of the screw and T-nut is greatly reduced because the mechanical force required to hold both parts together over the surface area of the engaged teeth is reduced. Thus, the connection between the instep pad and medial strap is stronger than that possible with conventional arrangements.

The retention assembly **50**, as mentioned above, can incorporate a tool-less adjustment device associated with the instep pad. This is achieved by replacing the screw and T-nut structure with a device that includes the tool-less adjustment feature.

Although a particular implementation has been described, it should be understood that many changes or modifications would be apparent to one skilled in the art that would fall within the scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. An adjustable strap assembly for securing a boot to a binding comprising:

a lateral strap having a first end for connection to a lateral side of the binding and having a second end;

an instep pad that includes a connection device positioned on a first distal end for adjustable connection to the second end of the lateral strap, and having an engagement device that includes a plurality of teeth positioned on a raised ramp area adjacent a second distal end;

a medial strap having a first end for connection to a medial side of the binding and having a second end, the medial strap including an elongated slot along a portion of its length that is positioned a predetermined distance from the second end and having plurality of teeth on a lower surface for mating with the teeth of the engagement device; and

an adjustable retention assembly associated with the elongated slot, the retention assembly for releasably securing the medial strap to the instep pad which permits the length of the strap assembly to be selectively adjustable by a user.

2. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein the plurality of teeth of the medial strap begin at the second end of the medial strap and end a predetermined distance from the second end of the medial strap.

3. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein the retention assembly comprises a screw and a T-nut.

4. The apparatus of claim **3** wherein the retention assembly further comprises a strap retaining cover.

5. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein the connection device is a ratchet buckle.

6. The apparatus of claim **1** wherein the first end of the lateral strap is connected to a lateral sidewall of the binding, and wherein the first end of the medial strap is connected to a medial sidewall of the binding.

7. A binding assembly for connecting a boot to a snowboard comprising:

a binding base securable to the snowboard which includes at least a medial sidewall and a lateral sidewall;

a toe strap configuration connected on a first side to the lateral sidewall in a toe area of the binding base and on a second side to the medial sidewall in the toe area; and

an instep strap assembly comprising:

a lateral strap having a first end for connection to a lateral side of the binding and having a second end;

an instep pad that includes a connection device positioned on a first distal end for adjustable connection to the second end of the lateral strap, and having an engagement device that includes a plurality of teeth positioned on a raised ramp area adjacent a second distal end;

a medial strap having a first end for connection to a medial side of the binding and having a second end, the medial strap including an elongated slot along its length that is positioned a predetermined distance from the second end and having a plurality of teeth for mating with the teeth of the ~~of the~~ engagement device; and

an adjustable retention assembly associated with the elongated slot, the retention assembly for releasably securing the medial strap to the instep pad to permit the length of the instep strap assembly to be selectively adjustable by a user.

8. The apparatus of claim **7** wherein the first end of the lateral strap is connected to a lateral sidewall of the binding, and wherein the first end of the medial strap is connected to a medial sidewall of the binding.

9. The apparatus of claim **7** further comprising a highback support connected to the binding base.

10. The apparatus of claim **9** wherein the first ~~the first~~ end of the lateral strap and the first end of the medial strap are connected on opposite sides of a highback support heel cup.

11. The apparatus of claim **7** wherein the retention assembly comprises a screw and a T-nut.

12. The apparatus of claim **11** wherein the retention assembly further comprises a strap retaining cover.

13. The apparatus of claim **7** wherein the toe strap configuration includes a forefoot lateral strap, a forefoot pad that includes a connection device positioned on a first distal end for adjustable connection to the lateral strap, and having an engagement device positioned on a raised ramp area adjacent a second distal end, a forefoot medial strap having a first end for connection to a medial side of the binding and having a second end, and an adjustable forefoot retention assembly.

14. The apparatus of claim **13** wherein the forefoot medial strap includes an elongated slot along its length, and the forefoot retention assembly is associated with the elongated slot.

15. The apparatus of claim **13** wherein the forefoot retention assembly comprises a screw and a T-nut.

16. The apparatus of claim **15** wherein the forefoot retention assembly further comprises a strap retaining cover.

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